

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1-3 and add claim 7 as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An system for sorting incoming mailpieces and preparing outgoing mailpieces, the apparatus-system comprising:

a mailpiece sorting apparatus for sorting incoming mailpieces and obtaining a video image of the mailpieces;

a video coding station linked to the mailpiece sorting apparatus for viewing the video image of the mailpieces obtained by the mailpiece sorting apparatus and identifying return-to-sender mailpieces, the video coding station configured for an operator to input address information for the return-to-sender mailpieces for use by the system;

a return mail workstation linked to the video coding station for providing update information for the return-to-sender mailpieces to the system regarding the input address information input by the operator;

an inserting apparatus for preparing outgoing mailpieces, the inserting apparatus linked to the return mail workstation; and

a data file for use with the inserting apparatus, the data file containing address information for preparing outgoing mailpieces;

whereby the update information provided by the return mail workstation is used to update the data file for use with the inserting apparatus, thus reducing the amount of return to sender mailpieces created by the inserting apparatus.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A method for sorting incoming mailpieces and preparing outgoing mailpieces, the apparatus-method comprising:

- a. sorting incoming mailpieces and obtaining a video image of the mailpieces using a mailpiece sorting apparatus;
- b. viewing the video image of the mailpieces obtained by the mailpiece sorting apparatus at video coding station, the video coding station configured to identify return-to-sender mailpieces and for an operator to input address information for use by the system;
- c. inputting address information by the operator regarding the return-to-sender mailpieces, the input address information for use by the system;
- d. providing update information regarding the return-to-sender mailpieces using a return mail workstation, the update information regarding the input address information input by the operator;
- e. storing the update information in a return mail workstation database;
- e.f. updating a data file with update information from the return mail workstation database, the data file for use with an inserting apparatus and containing address information for preparing outgoing mailpieces; and
- gf. preparing outgoing mailpieces using the inserting apparatus;

whereby the method reduces the amount of return to sender mailpieces created by the inserting apparatus.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 2 further comprising the step of:

- gh. sending update information to the sender for updating the sender's addressee information.

Claims 4-6 (withdrawn)

Claim 7 (new) A method for sorting incoming mailpieces and preparing outgoing mailpieces, the method comprising:

- a. sorting incoming mailpieces and obtaining a video image of the mailpieces using a mailpiece sorting apparatus;
- b. viewing the video image of the mailpieces obtained by the mailpiece sorting apparatus at video coding station, the video coding station configured for an operator to input address information;
- c. inputting address information by the operator;
- d. providing update information using a return mail workstation, the update information regarding the input address information input by the operator;
- e. updating a data file with update information from the return mail workstation database, the data file for use with an inserting apparatus and containing address information for preparing outgoing mailpieces;
- g. preparing outgoing mailpieces using the inserting apparatus; and

- h. sending update information to the sender for updating the sender's addressee information, whereby the method reduces the amount of return to sender mailpieces created by the inserting apparatus.